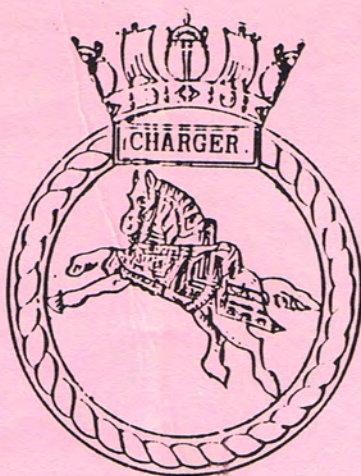




SEVERN DIVISION ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE
COMMISSIONING SERVICE
OF
HMS CHARGER
ON
SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER 1988



HMS FLYING FOX
Winterstoke Road
Bristol BS3 2NS

PRINCIPAL GUESTS

SIR JOHN WILLS Bt TD
The Lord Lieutenant of Avon

COUNCILLOR AND MRS D B TEDDER
The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Bristol

COMMODORE A D BARRAT RD* ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE
Commodore List 1 Royal Naval Reserve

CAPTAIN R B MORTLOCK ROYAL NAVY
Chief of Staff to Flag Officer Plymouth

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY:

The Reverend A Hempenstall Royal Navy
The Reverend G Craig Royal Navy
The Right Reverend Monsignor P G Leyden

Lieutenant Commander R E Just Royal Navy
Commanding Officer of HMS CHARGER

Commander D J Gammans RD Royal Naval Reserve
*Commanding Officer of The Severn Division
Royal Naval Reserve*

PROGRAMME

- 1030 Ships' Company fall in
- 1040 Guard takes post on the quayside
- 1045 Official guests arrive
- 1055 Lord and Lady Mayoress arrive
- 1100 Lord Lieutenant arrives and inspects Guard
- 1105 The Commissioning Ceremony (Off Caps)
Reading of the Commissioning Warrant by
Commanding Officer HMS CHARGER
The Ceremony of Colours
The Act of Dedication
- o/c Parade Dismissed
Light refreshments served
- 1140 The Ship's Company and Guests assemble for
the cutting of the Commissioning Cake by
Mrs R E Just and Junior Seaman R Nichols
- 1145 Toast to HMS CHARGER
- 1215 Principal guests tour HMS CHARGER
- o/c Lord Lieutenant departs
Lord and Lady Mayoress depart
- 1230 Official guests tour HMS CHARGER
- 1245 HMS CHARGER open to all guests
- 1330 HMS CHARGER sails

Order of Service

The Captain will read the Commissioning Warrant
The Ensign will be hoisted and the Masthead Pendant broken

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

The Captain shall address the Ship's Company in these words:

Seeing that in the course of our duty we are set in the midst of many and great dangers and that we cannot be faithful to the high trust placed in us without the help of Almighty God, let us unite our prayers in seeking his blessing upon his ship and all who serve in her.

The Captain shall call on the Ship's Company to ask for God's Blessing on the ship, using this ancient call:

FROM THE GAELIC BLESSING, 1589

The Captain: I call upon you to pray for God's blessing on this ship. May God the Father bless her.

Ship's Company: Bless our ship.

The Captain: May Jesus Christ bless her.

Ship's Company: Bless our ship.

The Captain: May the Holy Spirit bless her.

Ship's Company: Bless our ship.

Then this hymn may be sung:

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound—
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

The Gospel and the prayer following shall be read by the Roman Catholic Chaplain:

With the coming of evening that same day, he said to them, 'Let us cross over to the other side'. And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him'.

Let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace:
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

THE PRAYERS

to be said by the Chaplain, Church of Scotland and free Churches:

Let us give thanks to God for all who have inspired us by their example and pray that we may uphold the best traditions of the Royal Navy.

Almighty and everlasting God, the creator and upholder of men, who hast in every age inspired thy servants with courage and skill, we give thee thanks for the example of those who have gone before us; for the seamen of our nation; for all who in great or small ships have braved the perils of the deep; for all who have given their lives for their country. For ourselves, grant, O Lord, that we may ever be conscious of thy ruling hand. May we be found watchful at our posts. Make us ever mindful of the needs of others, sharing our joys and bearing their burdens in the work which thou hast given us to do; and keep us always in thy love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for our homes

O God, who sent thy Son, Jesus Christ, to live in an earthly home for our sakes, we pray thee to bless our homes, and all who are in them; grant that we may always remain faithful to them, and they to us, and help us to remember that though time and distance part us, we are all one in thee for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for perseverance.

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yieldeth the true glory; through him, who for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life: our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

This hymn or some part of it may be sung:

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O ruler of the earth and sky
Be with our airmen when they fly:
And keep them in thy loving care
From all the perils of the air.
O let our cry come up to thee
For those who fly o'er land and sea.

O Trinity of love and power
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go:
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

THE BLESSING OF THE SHIP

The Chaplain: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

The Ship's Company: Who hath made heaven and earth.

The Chaplain: Let us pray.

O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, LET THY BLESSING BE UPON THIS SHIP, AND UPON ALL THOSE WHO SERVE AND SAIL IN HER: MAY GOOD SUCCESS AND THY PROTECTION AND THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE HOLY ANGELS ALWAYS BE WITH THEM, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT. *AMEN.*

All shall say together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Led by the Chaplain, the following prayer shall be said by the whole Ship's Company:

THE NAVAL PRAYER

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who has compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; be pleased to receive into thy Almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen ELIZABETH and her Dominions; and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Island and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve thee our God: and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all evermore. *Amen.*

HMS CHARGER

HMS CHARGER is an "ARCHER" class Coastal Training Craft, and her primary role is to provide navigation and elementary seamanship training opportunities for the young officers and ratings of the Royal Naval Reserve. She is attached to the Severn Division Royal Naval Reserve whose Headquarters are at HMS FLYING FOX in Bristol.

She is 20 metres long, has a beam of 5.3 metres and a displacement of 49 tonnes on a 1.5 metre draught. She is of Glass Reinforced Plastic construction and is powered by two V12 Turbocharged Perkins diesel engines which give her a top speed in the order of 23 knots.

The present HMS CHARGER is the sixth of her name in the Royal Navy although she is the seventh such named vessel to have a close association with the Service. The first CHARGER was a Gun-Brig built at Deptford in 1801, she was sold in 1814 as the Fleet was reduced after the Napoleonic Wars. In 1855 Deptford became the birth-place for the second CHARGER, a wooden built Screw Gunboat of 236 tons. By 1866 CHARGER was reduced to a bouy boat at Halifax Nova Scotia and was sold in 1887 and renamed 'RESCUE'. She was broken up in 1921, 9 years after her successor. The third CHARGER was a 290 ton, 27 knot Torpedo Boat Destroyer built by Yarrows for £36000 in 1892 and sold at Chatham as scrap for £1600 in 1912.

There followed another CHARGER which was never commissioned as a warship in the Royal Navy. She was a refrigeration ship, the RIO DEL PLATA, which was converted whilst still on the building stocks before completion by Sun Shipbuilders at Chester, Philadelphia in 1941 to an Escort Carrier and although she was commissioned into the United States Navy she was used to train Royal Naval personnel.

The fourth HMS CHARGER was built in Seattle in 1942 and was launched as the Escort Carrier HMS RAVAGER but her name was changed very early in her career. 486 feet long and 62 wide displacing 11420 tons and carrying 24 aircraft she was the largest and most powerful CHARGER built. In 1947 Landing Ship Tank 3026 was named HMS CHARGER in 1947 and she served in the Fleet until 1966 when she was transferred to the Ministry of Transport as 'EMPIRE NORDIC', two years later she was broken up in Bilbao.

*Royal Marine Musicians by kind permission of
The Flag Officer Plymouth*

*The use of V. Shed by the courtesy of
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